



ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՀ Մշտական Ներկայացուցչություն
OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA

July 20, 2020

Dear Representative:

I write to share with you the perspective of the Republic of Artsakh on Azerbaijan's recent cross-border attack on Armenia.

As you may know, starting on July 12th, Azerbaijani forces backed by heavy artillery launched a large-scale offensive against the northern border of Armenia.

Baku's unprovoked assault reinforces its standing as a belligerent actor and a growing threat to regional stability. Azerbaijan, rather than restoring a direct dialogue with the Artsakh government, has chosen instead to demonize Armenians, incite hatred among its own population, and undertake reckless military escalations at the cost of lives on both sides. Rather than join with Artsakh and Armenia in accepting the Royce-Engel Peace Proposal, which would deploy observers and gunfire locators along the line-of-contact, the Aliyev government has sought instead to avoid accountability for its constant cease-fire violations.

Azerbaijan's current offensive, which has already destroyed various civil objects in Armenia, including a PPE mask factory, risks starting a regional war during a global pandemic. The country rejected UN Secretary-General's appeal for global ceasefire in support of a bigger joint fight against COVID-19. Furthermore, few days ago, on July 16, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense threatened missile strikes against Armenia's nuclear power plant – an attack that could lead to a global nuclear nightmare.

As much as Artsakh wants to resolve our outstanding issues with Azerbaijan in a non-violent and mutually respectful manner, it is all too painfully clear today that Ilham Aliyev's Azerbaijan does not want to be our partner for peace. We remain, nonetheless, committed to a durable and democratic peace based upon a constructive regional coexistence of Artsakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We encourage you to condemn and, to the extent possible, constrain Azerbaijan's aggression, sending the Aliyev's government a strong signal that the Azerbaijan-Artsakh conflict can only be solved by peaceful means. The sooner Baku abandons violence and respects the cease-fire, the sooner we can get to work building a better future for all the citizens of the South Caucasus.

I look forward to a continued cooperation towards our shared vision of peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Avetisyan".

Robert Avetisyan
Representative

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